



## Hunger march to D.C. planned on King anniversary

# Feed the people, not the Pentagon

By Sharon Black

On Feb. 20, the Peoples Power Assembly announced a campaign to roll back food-stamp cuts and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) rule changes taking effect in April.

On April 4, on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the group will launch a "Hunger March" from Baltimore to the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

The Department of Agriculture must face the poor families, children and food industry workers who will suffer from its actions.

The people losing SNAP benefits (as food stamps are now officially called) are just the tip of the iceberg. Social Security Disability benefits and children's school lunches will be cut, too.

But not the Pentagon! This year, the military got a \$130 billion increase. People will starve while billionaires like Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos pay next to nothing in taxes.

### 700,000 people to lose food stamps

This April, some 700,000 people will lose food stamps. Millions more will get fewer benefits under USDA rule changes made by the Trump administration.

In Maryland, over 50,000 people will lose food stamps. In Baltimore City alone, 15,000 will be cut. Nearly 25 percent of the people in Baltimore — that is 1 out of 4 people, many of them children — already go to bed hungry.

Major cuts in food stamps will also mean that many small grocery stores that service the poor will have to close their doors. This is a crisis affecting not only big cities, but many small towns and rural areas across the U.S.



Baltimore in 1982 and January 18, 2020

### School lunch programs cut; children suffer

The Department of Agriculture's rule changes not only impact food stamp recipients, they will also reverberate in cuts to free school lunch programs.

As of this writing, it remains unclear exactly how many children will lose school lunches. But, according to USDA regulations, as many as 942,000 children could be cut.

### Millionaire Sonny Perdue attacks workers' rights on the job

Millionaire Georgia farmer and politician Sonny Perdue is the Trump-appointed head of the USDA. On top of food stamps and school lunches, the USDA also overhauled slaughterhouse rules that threaten the safety of workers.

These rule changes removed federal limits on pork-processing line speeds. While highly profitable for the meat industry, it puts workers in danger of higher rates of injury, both acute and long term. The United Food and Commercial Workers union has filed a lawsuit to suspend the rule change.

### Activists say, 'Fight, don't starve!'

On Jan. 18, during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday holiday, Miranda Bachman from Youth Against War and Racism participated in a March to Resist War and Racism, opposing U.S. war threats against Iran and Iraq and to stop the food stamp cuts.

She explained, "People were so angry about food stamps being cut that some of those watching our protest from bus stops and the sidewalk spontaneously joined the march."

She added, "Our phones started ringing immediately. April 4 is our next step."



Andre Powell, a Peoples Power Assembly organizer and retired AFSCME state worker who helped to administer the food stamp program, explained: "We have to organize and march. It's time to revive the Food Is a Right Campaign and the old slogan, 'Fight, don't starve.'"

Powell added: "The Trump administration, and more importantly the entire capitalist system, is determined to roll back every possible workers' gain imaginable. But we can stop it if we organize and fight."

March organizers are inviting groups to endorse and join in organizing the march.

"On April 4, we will put a face on poverty. We will march from Baltimore to the doors of the USDA," concluded Powell. ■



SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

## Women resist war, sanctions, racism and poverty

Centerfold

Rev. Annie Chambers speaks

MEXICO: Women vs. Femicide

CUBA: la Federación Mujeres

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Wet'suwet'en: No reconciliation!

COVID-19 crisis • Bloomberg

Stand with federal workers!

Racism protested on SD campus

Cancel household debt

End blockade of Cuba & Zimbabwe

How do we get socialism?

## El movimiento por Bernie Sanders 12

## The movement for Bernie Sanders: Which side are you on? Why revolutionary socialists call for critical support

We have no illusions about the Democratic Party. It is a billionaire and bankers' War Party. Any notion that the Democratic Party represents the working class is a sugar-coated charade. At its core, it remains a neoliberal institution bent on preserving capitalist rule.

Destructive imperialist wars have been waged under Democratic Party administrations; workers' rights and benefits for the poor have been stripped under every single administration, regardless of party. What is constant regardless of which party prevails is the system of capitalism and imperialism that is the root cause of so much human misery.

### So why are we calling for critical support of the Sanders movement?

Bernie Sanders as the candidate is not the pivotal issue. What's critical is the struggle that his campaign has unleashed against the Democratic Party establishment. A struggle which has struck fear in the ruling class.

This campaign is a working-class movement, mostly of young people and increasingly of the oppressed, that deeply distrusts the Establishment of both parties. It is a movement fueled by increasing anger against the rule of billionaires and the growing gap between rich and poor that has left so many workers impoverished.

The fact that the ruling class is so worried and so frantic to cut this movement off at the pass is a clear indicator of their own fear that the movement, galvanized around health care, free education, curbing the climate crisis, etc., may well get out of control. Meaning that it might leave the constricted straitjacket of the Democratic Party.

The increasingly virulent anti-Bernie Sanders attacks have been picking up steam ever since it's become clear that Sanders' campaign might win the primaries. Of course, there are a million tricks between now and the July Democratic Convention, and the likelihood of a stolen election looms large.

The Iowa Caucus debacle was a sickening reminder that forces behind the curtain pull the strings. That they would go so far as to wreck the Iowa Caucus in an attempt to slow the Sanders campaign demonstrates their

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While Trump appoints bigot Mike Pence to head COVID-19 task force, China mobilizes medical workers to contain virus.



# China buys time for world, but Trump and Wall Street can't cope with COVID-19 crisis

By Scott Scheffer

The White House held a rare press conference Feb. 26, trying to calm financial markets after fear of a COVID-19 outbreak caused the largest stock market tumble in years. President Donald Trump painted a rosy picture of the situation in the U.S., contradicting the national health officials who were lined up alongside him.

Wall Street markets — already jittery over the looming capitalist crisis of overproduction — lost \$3 trillion immediately following an announcement by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) declaring a national health emergency. Investors are terrorized by the prospect of an epidemic, not for humane reasons, but because of its potential impact on profits.

Trump didn't mention at the press conference that, in 2018, his administration disbanded a global health security team whose job it had been to implement a national biodefense strategy, or that he cut the budget for global health by 20 percent.

Nor did he mention that Vice President Mike Pence, whom Trump appointed to head his "task force" on COVID-19, blocked life-saving measures to stop the spread of HIV during his tenure as Indiana governor.

As China has been battling the disease, epidemiologists and scientists repeatedly warned that all countries should prepare for an outbreak. The number of new COVID-19 cases has slowed in China, but the virus has now reached 44 other countries, and the World Health Organization (WHO) reported Feb. 26 that the

number of new cases outside China had exceeded the number in China for the first time.

Western politicians' and media's slander of China and articles of gloom and doom have fed racist, anti-Asian violence in places where infections have occurred or been feared, from the San Fernando Valley in California to New York City, from Manchester, England, to Italy, France and Australia.

China's campaign to control the virus has been at great cost: medical staff risking and losing their lives but bravely carrying on, public transportation shut down, millions of people confined to their apartments, workplaces halted and an economic loss of \$196 billion in January.

But there was no hesitation. The Chinese people knew what had to be done. Their historic actions were enabled by a planned, centralized social system put in place by the 1949 revolution, and by unity in the face of the crisis.

China's war against the virus is looking more successful every day, as the daily count of new cases has slowed. The sacrifices made by the Chinese people have bought time for the rest of the world.

## U.S. health care system unprepared

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has expressed numerous times that his biggest concern has been the spread of the virus to countries that are less capable of controlling it than China is.

One might have interpreted his remarks to refer to impoverished countries with capitalist economies so drained by imperialist exploita-

tion — their health care systems battered and weakened by budget cuts imposed by the International Monetary Fund. Of course, the danger is great in impoverished countries.

But as William Haseltine pointed out in a Feb. 24 L.A. Times Op Ed, the U.S. has shown itself to be in a health care crisis with every influenza outbreak: "Just two years ago ... patients seeking treatment ... found themselves in 'war zones.' Hospitals turned away ambulances, imported nurses from elsewhere and erected parking lot tents when they ran out of beds. Surgeries had to be canceled and hospitals ran out of supplies."

The fatalities from COVID-19 are roughly 2 percent, or 2,000 out of 100,000 infections. That is far less than those of the outbreaks of related infections like SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome) earlier in this century that took the lives of 25 percent and 34 percent of those infected, respectively. But it's more than the annual outbreaks of influenza that take the lives of 14 out of 1,000 infected patients.

Had China not moved so boldly, the worldwide death toll could have been catastrophic. Nearly 90 percent of COVID-19 cases result only in mild symptoms. Ironically, that coupled with the fact that human to human transmission of the disease can happen almost immediately after the infection, makes the disease extremely difficult to contain, because many people think they have a cold and continue with normal work and social interaction.

All of this points to the enormous challenge that the Chinese people

have faced and validates their plan to make containment the first order of business.

## China prioritizes virus containment

In addition to a strategy of keeping workplaces closed and a quarantine that at its peak affected 100 million people to varying degrees, drones sprayed disinfectant on the streets of Wuhan and broadcast messages encouraging people to stay indoors. Food was delivered to people's doorsteps.

Although Western media accused the Chinese government of not being transparent in its efforts to combat the virus, videos posted on YouTube are an example of the material released to explain the crisis in scientific terms, the timeline of events, and offer guidelines to help curb the outbreak.

Interviews with quarantined people and medical staff show what a hard time it has been for the Chinese people, but also the confidence that they have in the Chinese Communist Party leadership.

The People's Liberation Army staffed a newly built hospital — one of two new hospitals built for COVID-19 patients in record time. International help was solicited by the Chinese leadership, including a delegation of scientists from the World Health Organization, and medications to help with treatment were sought and received from other countries.

Notably, revolutionary Cuba, one of the world's pioneers of biotechnological medicine despite the brutal U.S. economic blockade, has provided a medicine with antiviral properties that is being used in treatment. 🇨🇺

A NEW BOOK

## BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle in British North America. This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

**Black August** celebrates the legacy and accomplishments of Black women.

➔ The book is dedicated to Black, Brown, oppressed, and poor people who have been imprisoned and killed by the U.S. criminal justice system.

Historical series by Matsemela-Ali Odom ★ Contributions by Gloria Verdieu  
★ Carl Muhammad ★ Zola Fish ★ Mary Lou Finley ★ Dennis Childs ★ Eusi Kwayana  
★ Mumia Abu-Jamal ★ Curtis Howard ★ Poem by Sylvia Cameron Telafaro

<https://tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5>

A NEW BOOK BY BOB MCCUBBIN

## The Social Evolution of Humanity

### Marx and Engels were right!

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels' masterful work, *'Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.'*

McCubbin is the author of *'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.'* First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin's unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

<https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>



# Cops raid Wet'suwet'en camps, Indigenous and allies respond: Shut Down Canada!

By M. Tiahui

Indigenous people and allies who support Indigenous sovereignty have taken to the streets throughout Canada in response to multiple raids on peaceful encampments in Wet'suwet'en territory in British Columbia.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with guns, dogs and helicopters have conducted raids against Wet'suwet'en clan camps. The camps, located along a road in Wet'suwet'en lands, are part of an effort to block the Coastal GasLink pipeline company from entering Wet'suwet'en lands.

Twenty-eight people have been arrested by police as part of enforcement operations in Wet'suwet'en territory. All have since been released, with some facing future court dates.

On Feb. 6, the RCMP launched a pre-dawn raid on the first Wet'suwet'en camp at kilometer 39 of the Morice Road. They arrested six people, detained journalists and dismantled the camp.

On Feb. 7, the RCMP — including tactical squad members with rifles — moved in via helicopters and vehicles on the Gidimt'en camp at kilometer 44, eventually arresting four people.

On Feb. 10, the RCMP entered the Unist'ot'en camp and arrested seven there who were in a prayer ceremony for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (#MMIWG2S).

All of these raids have included dogs, snipers, helicopters flying overhead, and removing or distancing journalists so that they often could not record what was happening.

## Years of resistance

The RCMP raids have been in response to years of resistance by the traditional clans of the Wet'suwet'en Nation to TransCanada's Coastal GasLink pipeline. Their stolen lands are unceded, not subject to any treaty. They do not consent to the destruction of their lands. Despite this, Coastal GasLink has continued to violate environmental regulations and destroy archaeological sites that are sacred to the Wet'suwet'en. Canada and its partner corporations seek to exploit and destroy the lands and protect corporate profits.

The RCMP is enforcing their interpretation of laws and court orders to allow Coastal GasLink pipeline workers into the area. Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, title holders to the land, have refused to consent to the pipeline.

Canadian law had previously recognized the rights of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and five clans, in addition to recognition of the government-sanctioned "Indian Act" band council chiefs. A Supreme Court of Canada ruling confirmed the land's unceded status in 1997. Nonetheless, the British Columbia Supreme Court recently declared that Coastal GasLink lines could pass through their lands.

According to a Unist'ot'en state-

## 'Reconciliation is dead. Revolution is alive!'

As we go to press, the movement in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en continues to grow across Canada and beyond. The country's coast-to-coast rail system has been largely shut down for three weeks, despite Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Feb. 21 declaration that "the blockades must come down."

Riot cops have been sent against blockades in the Tyendinaga Mohawk territory in Ontario and by the Secwepemc and Gitksan peoples in British Columbia. Indigenous youth blocked the British Columbia Legislature and ports were blocked on both coasts. The Mohawks of Kanesatake and Kahnawake in Quebec set up solidarity blockades, including rolling blockades that stalled traffic for hours.

Among those arrested have been hereditary chiefs on their own sovereign lands, chiefs who have de-

manded that the RCMP and Coastal GasLink leave their territory. Some 37 people were arrested in Toronto on Feb. 25 while blocking the city's GO train service. But mass arrests have not deterred the struggle.

Canada's political establishment and capitalist ruling class are panicked by the unity, creativity and determination of Indigenous nations and their allies. They are helping to spread vicious and violent anti-Indigenous racism to disrupt the support of non-Native people. The fightback is now hitting the bosses in their pocketbooks as supply chains are disrupted across North America. And the capitalists in the U.S. are watching warily, fearing these lessons will spread and take hold among workers and oppressed people across the border.

Visit [Struggle-La-Lucha.org](http://Struggle-La-Lucha.org) for updates.

RCMP tore them down.

The sight of Mounties (RCMP) invading Wet'suwet'en lands and of the peaceful defenders being arrested inflamed people across Canada and in other countries, as well.

Calls to #ShutDownCanada rose up, and people around Canada engaged in fast and furious actions to intervene economically and politically so that Canada would take notice. Supporters of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs blocked roads and bridges in cities across Canada. Access to the busy Port of Vancouver was blocked for days before dozens were arrested. In Halifax, on the other side of the continent, part of the port was blocked for some hours. The Tyendinaga Mohawks in Ontario and other defenders elsewhere have blocked train tracks to shut down service on the CN Rail and Via Rail.

## 'When justice fails, Block the rails!'

From coast to coast, marchers round dance at public places, march, and demand that Canada back down from Wet'suwet'en and from its destructive defense of oil and gas extraction.

Youth-led occupations of the offices of federal cabinet ministers and members of Parliament have occurred across the country. Indigenous youth locked themselves down to the main entrance to the British



Freda Huson, before RCMP invasion of Unist'ot'en Healing Center.



Columbia Legislature, where hundreds more people later joined and blocked the doors on the opening day of the legislative session.

## Reconciliation Is dead

When the RCMP arrived at the gate to Unist'ot'en, the matriarchs were in ceremony and cremated a Canadian flag marked with the words "Reconciliation is dead." Matriarch Freda Huson threw the paper with the court injunction against the Wet'suwet'en into the fire, shouting "This is all it's worth, the paper it's written on."

Even before this latest series of raids, many Indigenous people were already outraged by the Guardian newspaper's revelation that the RCMP had secretly been ready with snipers during previous raids on Wet'suwet'en in January of 2019, with RCMP leadership calling for "lethal overwatch" to protect the Coastal GasLink project.

The RCMP has a lengthy and bloody history as an occupying army whose role for generations has been removing Indigenous people from their lands, suppressing Indigenous resistance, breaking strikes and more.

While Trudeau and other politicians have sometimes paid lip service to Indigenous sovereignty and the concept of reconciliation, it has become painfully clear that they are not interested in building better relationships with Indigenous nations and have not kept their promises to improve conditions for First Nations, Metis and Inuit people.

Indigenous children continue to be condemned disproportionately to foster care and experience suicide crises in all too many communities. Indigenous people are disproportionately imprisoned, impoverished and underhoused. Many reserves continue to lack basics such as clean drinking water. Indigenous women, girls and 2-spirit people continue to go missing and murdered. Colonialism and genocide have never ended.

Indigenous sovereignty is not respected, and the government and energy extraction corporations collaborate in trying to force Indigenous consent or ignoring Indigenous refusal of projects that impact them. Oil and gas companies and the government use economic and legal pressure and intimidation to force consent whenever possible. If they can't manufacture consent, such as with the Wet'suwet'en, they roll ahead with their plans anyway.

It has become increasingly clear that the British Columbia government and the RCMP do the bidding of energy corporations such as Coastal GasLink, and that Prime Minister Trudeau is hand-in-glove with energy extraction and mining corporations that sustain the current form of the Canadian economy. ■



# The best democracy money can buy Bloomberg is greasing the election

By Stephen Millies

Millions of people know that billionaire Michael Bloomberg is trying to stop Bernie Sanders and buy the White House for himself. The former stop-and-frisk New York mayor has already spent over \$400 million seeking the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. He may spend billions more.

Bloomberg's fellow billionaire, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, reportedly urged him a year ago to run for president. Bezos' \$104 billion fortune is even bigger than Bloomberg's. Both of these tycoons run nonunion outfits.

When told of Bezos' phone call to Bloomberg, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez remarked: "They've got class solidarity. The billionaires are looking out for each other."

Bernie Sanders sarcastically said that the two moguls, whose fortunes amount to a total of \$164 billion, could make for "a strong grassroots movement." Actually, the overworked employees in Amazon's warehouses are among the largest contributors to the Bernie Sanders campaign.

## Buying elections

Bloomberg isn't just spending oodles of cash on Facebook and TV ads, like his \$10-million Super Bowl commercial. Moneybags Mike is also buying endorsements, including those from elected officials. His tax-deductible charities are being used to purchase influence.

Buying elections is nothing new for Bloomberg. In 2009, he spent \$102 million, or about \$183 per vote, to get re-elected mayor of New York City. Bloomberg had already spent \$159 million in his previous successful runs for mayor in 2001 and 2005.

As repulsive as Bloomberg's vote-buying is, there's nothing illegal about it. Capitalist democracy is democracy for capitalists. Homeless people have the same "right" to contribute to political campaigns as Michael Bloomberg does with his \$60 billion fortune.



Protest against racist NYPD stop-and-frisk practices under Mayor Bloomberg, June 17, 2012.

This is the sort of "democracy" that Wall Street wants to bring to Cuba and Venezuela. Working people there don't want it and neither should we.

## Hiring presidents

Even with the U.S. dollar buying less than 15 cents of what it could buy 50 years ago, Bloomberg's \$60 billion stash is still a lot of money. It amounts to what 4 million low-paid workers earn in a year at the miserable federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

But that's only if these 4 million workers were able to work 40-hour weeks for the entire year and not suffer seasonal layoffs. That \$60 billion also represents the annual wages of over 1.9 million workers earning \$15 per hour. There was less inequality in the time of the Pharaohs.

The United States has never been "a government of the people, by the people, for the people." Forty-one of the 57 signers of the Declaration of Independence were slave owners.

That means that 72 percent of these "founding fathers" directly profited from the African Holocaust. Among them was John Hancock, the guy with the big signature.

Money has always greased U.S. elections. The communist leader Vince Copeland wrote about this red, white and blue corruption in his

book "Market Elections." Almost \$6 billion was spent on the 2018 congressional elections.

It's been exceptional, however, for the biggest billionaires to try to seize the White House for themselves. When Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon — whose family owned Alcoa, Gulf Oil and what is now the Bank of New York Mellon — made noises about running for president in 1928, his campaign went nowhere.

Nelson Rockefeller wasn't able to become president either, although he came close by becoming the unelected President Gerald Ford's vice president.

Big Capital prefers to hire their presidents. That was the case with professional politicians like Richard Nixon or Bill Clinton; the media-made "war hero" Dwight Eisenhower; or the washed-up movie star Ronald Reagan.

The wealthy and powerful knew that if a member of the Mellon or



Rudy Giuliani, Donald Trump, Michael Bloomberg and Bill Clinton in 2008. Photo: Jeffrey Epstein

Rockefeller financial dynasty became president, they would steal everything they could. Another reason is that some capitalist intellectuals realize that there needs to be a curtain separating the billionaire masters from their bought-and-paid-for presidential puppets.

## Anybody but Bernie

Bloomberg's candidacy destroys this shell game. It proclaims in flashing lights that the United States is a government of the rich, by the rich and for the rich.

Many capitalists believe that Bloomberg's fortune is the only thing that will stop Bernie Sanders from getting the Democratic nomination. If Bloomberg is able to steal the Democratic Party's nomination at the Milwaukee convention, millions of people will be outraged.

It may be the catalyst for forming a mass working-class movement that will break decisively with the dead end of capitalist parties.

Both Trump and Bloomberg are wannabe dictators. "I have my own army in the NYPD [New York City Police Department], which is the seventh biggest army in the world," proclaimed Bloomberg in 2011.

President Trump puts migrant children in cages. While Bloomberg was New York City mayor, thousands of youth — convicted of nothing — were sent to the Rikers Island prison simply because they couldn't afford bail.

Among them was Black youth Kaelief Browder, who spent three years in jail — two years of which were spent in solitary confinement — before his charges were dropped. Browder later committed suicide on June 6, 2015.

Bloomberg succeeding Trump in the White House will be like Bloomberg having replaced Rudy Giuliani in New York's City Hall. Black and Latinx people suffered 20 years of hell from this racist tag team.

Michael Bloomberg needs to be flushed out of politics. His \$60 billion fortune should be seized for reparations. 📌

# Trump's war on unions: Stand with federal workers!

By Lev Koufax

On Feb. 21, the Federal Register published a disgraceful anti-worker memo issued by President Donald Trump attacking union rights for civilian workers in the Department of Defense. The memo effectively gives Secretary of Defense Mark Esper the right to unilaterally strip all 750,000 DOD civilian workers of their collective bargaining rights and union representation.

This memo is the latest step in an escalating war by Trump and his big business allies on federal labor unions.

Since 1962, DOD workers have had the right to form unions and collec-



PHOTO: AFGE

tively bargain. The importance of union representation to the federal workforce cannot be overstated. For decades, federal unions have fought to strengthen benefits for civilian workers and protect them from unwarranted terminations, suspen-

sions and other disciplinary actions.

The rationale behind Trump's memo is that unionized DOD workers threaten U.S. "national security." This is simply an excuse to justify an all-out attack on the rights of one of the more blue collar sectors of the federal workforce.

Many civilian DOD workers, especially those more active in unions, are paid at the "wage grade" scale. Essentially, wage grade jobs are more likely to be paid on an hourly basis and involve physical labor or clerical work.

"The substance of [Trump's] memorandum is unprecedented and is clearly meant not as an effort to

protect national security, but as an instruction to carry out the administration's ongoing effort to undermine federal sector collective bargaining," the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) said in a letter to members of Congress.

The hypocrisy behind Trump's memo is appalling. He and other imperialist politicians simultaneously declare themselves to be allies of veterans and then attempt to worsen the working conditions of hundreds of thousands of civilian DOD employees, many of whom are veterans.

The entire working class and progressive movement must fight against Trump's anti-worker agenda and stand in solidarity with federal workers under attack! 📌



# The movement for Bernie Sanders: Which side are you on? Why revolutionary socialists call for critical support

By Sharon Black

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real contempt for their own so-called democracy.

## Billionaires reject even mild reforms — Imperialist war is their answer

The class of billionaires and bankers isn't inclined at this point to give much in the form of concessions — whether it's to provide health care, education, curb predatory landlords or raise the minimum wage — let alone push back police terror and the white supremacist system driving it, shutting down the immigrant detention centers, respecting Indigenous rights, providing justice for women, oppressed genders and the LGBTQ2S communities or saving the planet.

Capitalism as a system is in crisis and because of this it has become harder and harder for it to provide for the needs of the mass of people. Not only has the gap between rich and poor widened, but the next generation faces the threat of planetary collapse.

What the capitalists are driven to is imperialist war in all its many forms, whether by direct intervention or through sanctions. Democrats and Republicans are united in the imperialist attacks on Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Palestine, Korea, Zimbabwe, China and other countries.

## The importance of the movement

Will Sanders take this to the logical conclusion, that is, to openingly break with the Democratic Party? While unlikely from his own admissions, it remains an important question. What his supporters do is even more critical.

It is the movement that we are most interested in, and the potential for a larger struggle to push the working class in an independent direction in its own name.

Many of us at Struggle-La Lucha were extremely active in organizing and promoting the "Million Worker March" (October 17, 2004), which was founded and led by Black trade unionists who called the national march in large part with the goal of developing an independent workers' movement that would break from the chains of the Democratic Party.

Shouldn't revolutionary socialists and communists be in the Sanders movement — especially if it takes a critical turn — so that we can agitate, educate and explain what the next step could be?

## Referendum between capitalism and socialism

Both in the time leading up to the Democratic Convention — and also, if for some unforeseen reason Sanders wins the nomination — what, de facto, will take place is a referendum between capitalism and socialism.

It doesn't so much matter whether Bernie Sanders is or is not a real socialist or a "New Deal Democrat" — socialism is how the issue is being defined by the bourgeois establishment of both parties. Trump is

already defining this, as are many in the Democratic Party establishment.

## Appeal to revolutionaries disgusted by the bourgeois elections

The U.S. electoral system is wholly undemocratic. Just look at who can and cannot vote and how many times elections have been rigged, stolen, subverted or bought off in the interests of the ruling class. A good contrast could be made between the Cuban electoral system and that of the U.S. in an argument about which is more democratic.

In addition, the electoral system as it's constituted in the U.S. does not cover the police and military, who are not elected, but their actions can be a matter of life and death. Also unelected are our bosses, who exercise day-to-day power. You get the picture.

Nevertheless, it was the architect of the Bolshevik revolution, V.I. Lenin, who argued for revolutionaries to participate in parliamentary politics, not as an end but as a means.

Elections are a barometer of the struggle, but more importantly in this instance, they are also where that struggle of a large layer of the working class is taking place.

Why is this so? Many of us have a history inside the workers' and union movement.

Any experienced worker or union representative will tell you that most workers do not want to go on strike. Why would they? It means going without a paycheck, taking the risk that you'll lose your job completely and facing major hardships that could impact not only yourselves but your young children.

A strike, a sit-down action, a workplace takeover only materializes around the actual fight — after easier routes are exhausted. Maybe not in stages, but usually not as the first choice.

And it takes painstaking preparation and work by organizers who consistently do the work of distilling lessons and of raising consciousness, as we popularly used to call it.

It should not be surprising then, that the many workers and those in the community, both young and old, would want to go with what they are most accustomed to and what seems easiest, and that is to vote for change at the ballot box.

It is only necessity that drives class struggle forward.

## Critical support

Finally, no one is proposing that revolutionaries join the Democratic Party, drop our call for revolutionary socialism or blunt our criticism of Bernie Sanders.

Quite the contrary. He is not an anti-imperialist; you cannot even claim that he is thoroughly anti-capitalist. On these issues and perhaps others, we will find ways of making clear and effective critiques.

Perhaps the most important criticism of his campaign on the domestic front has been his failure to embrace the call for reparations for the descendants of those enslaved. We can explain why supporting

reparations and opposing white supremacy will strengthen the working-class movement and why it is a necessary bridge to building solidarity.


But none of this criticism will be effective or meaningful from the sidelines of the flesh and blood struggle.

We need to be with the working class, who will learn by trial and error, through experience, that we can only win our liberation by being in the streets, by conducting sit-ins and sit-downs, by strikes and ultimately organizing working-class power on a global scale. As Frederick Douglass said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

We should remind ourselves that the Russian Revolution of 1917 based

itself on the call for "peace, bread and land."

Vice President Mike Pence's words at a campaign rally in Atlanta, on August 11, 2019, shouldn't be lost on anyone. He said, "The moment America becomes a socialist country is the moment America ceases to be America."

For the capitalist class, it doesn't really matter what kind of socialism is under consideration (at least at this moment), whether it's a revolutionary version, or simply a reform that they believe will cut into their profit margin. Of course, that would all change if they were confronted with these two choices, reform or revolution. It's our job to see that the latter choice is ultimately on the table. 

# San Diego protests racist ban on campus speakers



SLL PHOTO: CARL MUHAMMAD

By Carl Muhammad

The International People's Democratic Uhuru Movement (InPDUM), a mass organization of the African People's Socialist Party, held a news conference on the "free speech" steps of the San Diego State University campus on Feb. 19 to denounce the school's banning of APSP Chair Omali Yeshitela and Nation of Islam leader Minister Ava Muhammad.

Both Yeshitela and Muhammad had been invited to speak at a campus event on reparations. Student organizers, bowing to pressure from university officials, SDSU's Hillel chapter and Zionist leaders, later "uninvited" them, prompting many to call for a boycott of the event.


Speakers at the news conference stood behind a banner reading "Africans Charge Genocide." They included Benjamin Prado of Unión Del Barrio, professor of African Studies Dr. Adisa A. Alkebulan, local InPDUM leader Muambi Tangu, Terrie Best of the Uhuru Solidarity Movement, and this writer, Carl Muhammad of the Committee Against Police Brutality and Socialist Unity Party-San Diego.

"We are completely opposed to the

offensive notion that Black people should be required to seek approval from the university or Jewish Zionist organizations before speaking openly about our own oppression and our own liberation struggle," read the press release announcing the news conference.

"It is outrageous and absurd that the oppressed, colonized, exploited, suffering, resource-starved, tortured, imprisoned and brutalized African should be held responsible for anti-Semitism when it was white people, not Africans, who forced Jews into gas chambers in Europe," the press released continued.

"San Diego State University sits on land stolen from the Mexican people, whose holocaust at the hands of U.S. white power is continuous, made clear by the mass graves lining the false colonial border, where Mexican women, children and men have been shot and discarded by U.S. Border Patrol and white vigilantes."

This writer joined the other speakers calling on the community to skip the censored event, but offered to work with the organizers to move the reparations event to a venue "so that these important voices can be heard." 



# #UnDiaSinNosotras: Women challenge femicide and rape in Mexico

By La Carbajal

Think about the last 10 women you've seen.

Can you remember their faces? Their eyes? What they were wearing? Could you?

In Mexico, we do.

We always remember their faces and the way they were dressed, not because we want to, but because we know that if they disappear we'll need that information to tell the police.

Statistics show that 10 women are killed every day in Mexico. It seems that, with every femicide that's committed, we develop a new form of self-defense to go out on the streets.

"Don't wear that skirt. Those red lips are too provocative. Walk with a pair of keys in between your fingers in case anyone tries to assault you. Don't act rude to your Uber driver. Don't act too friendly. If someone is raping you, just let them finish. Don't fight back. Run, run as fast as you can."

We have heard all these phrases since we were little girls. We're tired of living in a country that seems like a normalized war zone — where the only constant targets are us, the women.

In recent days, we saw a lot of front page headlines related to two femicides. One was the murder of Ingrid Escamilla, a 25-year-old woman who was brutally killed and skinned by her boyfriend. The other one, Fatima Aldrighetti, was a 7-year-old

girl who was tortured and killed by a married couple. The wife claimed she "needed to commit the crime" in order to prevent her husband from raping her own children, since he told her several times that "he wanted a little girl as a girlfriend."

Two different cases, both shockingly vile in the way they were committed, and both clear representations of everything that's wrong in our country.

After these crimes, our President Andrés Manuel López Obrador told the press in one of his morning news conferences that "feminists shouldn't paint the institution's walls as a way of protest." That made a lot of people on social media criticize his response.

For many, the same concern that he has taken to conserve the integrity of buildings should be channeled instead into developing effective plans of action in order to eradicate violence against women.

We're facing a crisis that for many years has gone unsolved and year by year seems to get worse. That's why a feminist collective in Veracruz convened all women around the country to carry out a national strike on March 9 under the hashtag #UnDiaSinNosotras — a day without women.

The goal is for women of all ages to be absent nationwide. The idea is that, since the government is not hearing our needs, the economic disruption caused by the women's strike will make them wake up and listen. Ev-



eryone will experience "a day without women" and finally realize what the loss of women's lives means.

When the femicide of Ingrid Escamilla was committed, a sensationalist newspaper leaked explicit photographs of her mangled body, proving that, even after death, a woman's identity can be reduced to a gruesome news story.

But I guess — until now — that was part of growing up as a woman in Mexico, a country that constantly calls us the weaker sex, that objectifies and sexualizes girls on their telenovelas, where femicides are renamed as "crimes of passion" and perpetrators are defended by the laws that were made by and for men, where people socially punish a naked body more when it's alive than when it's found in a bag on the streets.

The same country that forgets that we, "the weak ones," were the same ones that helped to reconstruct an entire city after the earthquake of 1985 and then again in 2017; the ones



capable of not only saving lives as scientists or doctors, but also the only ones capable of birthing life. The ones who are in a daily war zone and yet are out there constructing amazing and inspiring lives.

So, if they forget who we are, we'll remind them. We will paint walls, we'll conduct strikes, we'll yell hard, and, if it's needed, we'll set the entire city on fire, until they remember, until they never forget, until we can go out without having any fear, until we can remain alive, until, as women, we can finally be free of this terror.

*The writer is a student from Mexico City.*



**Julia 'Pachamama' Fernández**  
on the U.S. coup against Bolivia's first Indigenous president, Evo Morales of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS)

"I was just told by a woman in Bolivia that the Juana Azurduy program has been suspended by the de facto government. It's a stipend program that's designed to provide health and nutrition benefits, basically for pregnant mothers and young children in underserved sectors of the population — so that's been suspended.

"And it's clear that most of the most vulnerable communities which predominantly comprise our Indigenous peoples in the rural areas are the ones being most affected. That, along with the expulsion of our Cuban medical doctors, has basically created panic within the sectors.

"We have elders, we have children, pregnant women and men, which includes those protectors of democracy who were assaulted and shot during those peaceful marches in Senkata and Sacaba, who still have not received medical attention, so they are the most vulnerable. For me that spells out G-E-N-O-C-I-D-E. For

me that's what's happening.

"Basically, the Indigenous movement is being forced to rebuild amid all the chaos happening in Bolivia. Right now, there's like a series of intimidations, of persecution and unlawful detention of innocent MAS supporters, false accusations against grassroots journalists and against MAS political leaders — even, you know, false allegations against the presidential candidate Luis Arce Catacora.

"The focus — in spite of what they're facing — is to really stay together against all odds. And the Bolivian Indigenous peoples have fought and won the gas and water wars in the past. The May elections may not be fair, but international volunteers will arrive to be witnesses of the upcoming historical events happening in Bolivia. And as for the Bolivian people, their courage and their strength will pull them through."

*Read the full interview at [tinyurl.com/ta2hbre](https://tinyurl.com/ta2hbre)*

**Khalida Jarrar**  
is a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, member of the Palestine Legislative Council and advocate for prisoners. She has been jailed many times by the Israeli occupation, and was imprisoned again in October 2019



"Palestinians imprisoned for political reasons are discussing many topics. Of course, the events of the day, those outside the prison, those in the Occupied Territories, the arrests, the demolitions of homes, the killing of protesters, the situation in Gaza and other political issues take up a large part of the discussions. But my companions in prison also speak about their rights as women in Palestinian society.

"There have been very many protests. I think the one that became particularly well-known was the one calling for respecting our privacy. In an Israeli prison, you are monitored through cameras placed almost everywhere. Even during our time in the yard, the most longed-

for moment for anyone who is forced to live almost all the time in a prison cell. Some Palestinian prisoners are religious women who are carefully guarding their privacy.

"For 63 days, we refused to go out of our cells. As punishment, we were transferred to Damon prison, where conditions are harsher. There as well, we were punished on several occasions because we didn't follow orders that made no sense and were abusive. For a whole month, we could not receive any visits from our families. And they always spoke to us in Hebrew, a language that many of us did not know."

*Read the full interview at [tinyurl.com/tdxn7as](https://tinyurl.com/tdxn7as)*



# Women resist poverty

## Interview with Rev. Annie Chambers

By Miranda Bachman and Sharon Black

Struggle-La Lucha interviewed the Rev. Annie Chambers for International Working Women’s Day. Chambers is a resident and housing rights leader at Douglas Homes, a public housing project in Baltimore which is threatened by privatization. She is a former Black Panther Party member and is currently organizing a new housing coalition.

**Struggle-La Lucha:** Could you tell us a little about your experiences as a young activist? Where did you grow up? How did you become committed to the struggle?

**Rev. Annie Chambers:** Life experiences propelled me into the struggle. I grew up in Richmond, Va. I lived there until I was 12. When I was a little girl, I was raped. Out of that rape I had a child. Her father is white. Back then, I couldn’t tell my father because my father and family would have wanted revenge. I didn’t want my father to die, so I couldn’t tell him.

I had a brother who was already in the struggle at that time, my brother James X. He was one of Malcolm X’s men. He would come home and talk about the struggle. I was amazed that people were fighting back. I had a lot of anger in me.

I was forced into marriage. You couldn’t be a single woman without a husband having a baby back then. But I wanted to do something, so when my brother would talk about the struggle, I kept telling my father I wanted to go. I kept begging my father to let me go. In the summer, my father finally agreed to let me go, even though I was still a child and I was married. I was 14.

**SLL:** Can you tell our readers a little about your experiences organizing the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization?

**AC:** They used to call us “the welfare rights women.” In 1973 or 1974, it was getting close to the holidays and a whole lot of people in Baltimore had not gotten their AFDC [Aid to Families with Dependent Children] checks. So they came to Welfare Rights and we decided to go to the welfare office and talk to the director of social services, Buzzy.

We went directly to Buzzy’s office, walked in and locked the door. We told him that none of us would have Christmas or any other holiday until the checks got out. We stayed in there all night until Buzzy got on the phone and called his people back into the agency. The checks and the food stamps went out. That was the sort of struggle we engaged in.

We also started taking over houses that the city was renovating and turning into public housing. We really started to pick up people that way, a lot of women looking to house their families. The women in Welfare Rights just kept fighting. Whenever we said we were going to do something, we did it. We were a strong, working-class organization, with all races, creeds and colors.

**SLL:** You are spearheading a new coalition for housing rights. What are some of the major issues that you’re fighting around?

**AC:** The main thing we are fighting for right now is to keep Douglas Homes as public housing. Johns Hopkins University has already expressed that they want Douglas Homes.

We are fighting for affordable housing for everyone. This is one of the things the Black Panther Party was about.

People cannot afford the rents in this city. We are sitting here in Douglas right now, and around here they come to the tenants telling people they will give them a voucher in exchange for your public housing



SLL PHOTO: RASIKA RUWANPATHIRANA

*We need to talk about education, housing and decent wages. Fifteen dollars isn’t enough. It’s a joke. By the time it goes into effect, we will need \$50 an hour. America enslaves its own people. We want to work with the unions so the unions don’t back off, so they don’t compromise.*

lease. But what they don’t tell people is that you have to keep qualifying for that voucher. There are all sorts of rules with it that they can use to kick you out. They want to evict people.

They are destroying Douglas Homes. The city doesn’t want to actually fix the doors and the roofs and the plumbing in public housing.

We are fighting to keep Douglas. We want it to be a historic development here. It has been here since the 1930s. It was one of the first public housing developments.

**SLL.** Finally, I understand that you will be speaking at the United Nations on poverty in the U.S., which particularly impacts women. What are your thoughts on fighting poverty?

**AC:** The connection between capitalism and poverty is that the capitalists are greedy as hell. What communities are thriving? Only upper-class people.

We need to talk about education, housing and actual decent wages. Fifteen dollars isn’t even enough. It’s a joke. By the time it goes into effect, we will need \$50 an hour. America enslaves its own people. We want to work with the unions so the unions don’t back off, so they don’t compromise.

People want to say that we don’t have a king and queen system, but we do! It is just the few at the top with the wealth, and they won’t even let crumbs drop off the table. When people tell me they are in the middle, I say, “No you aren’t. You are just one or two lost paychecks away from being me, from being poor.”



**Janine Africa and Janet Africa** are two of the surviving MOVE 9 activists who recently won release after decades in prison

They described the hell they went through in Pennsylvania prisons. They and the other MOVE 9 members were beaten by guards.

Upon arriving in prison, Janet and Janine were immediately put in “the hole” — solitary confinement. The warden told them they would stay there and they did stay there for a long time.

In 1985, the women were told that their children had been killed while they were still in solitary confinement. The guards told them their children were dead without further explanation. They had to rely on overheard conversation among other prisoners in the prison yard to glean that the Philadelphia police and FBI had bombed the MOVE house on Osage Avenue on May 13, 1985, killing six adults and five children.

Janine Africa and Janet Africa have not been crushed by the horrendous ordeals they have suffered. They say it is the unbroken solidarity of the MOVE family and support of many others that gave them the strength to survive.

Janine said: “For 41 years, they have tried to beat us down. They have tried to take our health. They have tried everything to stop us because they couldn’t stop us no other way.

“We have a family that is so strong and supportive. They had our backs and we rode on their strength and that made us strong. We can’t stop talking about it because we know how important that is.

“We are out here fighting for everybody, whether you are white, Black, Chinese. We know this system is on pins and needles because we are coming out!”

Read about Janine and Janet Africa’s historic visit to Southern California at [tinyurl.com/vhhaxr8](https://tinyurl.com/vhhaxr8)

SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD



# Consumer debt soars to \$14 trillion So, cancel the debt!

By Gary Wilson

Consumer borrowing in the U.S. rose to a new record level at \$14.15 trillion, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said on Feb. 11.

Everything rose: mortgages, student loans, auto loans, credit card debt.

Student debt is at \$1.51 trillion. Auto loans are at \$1.33 trillion.

Credit card debt in the U.S. is at a record \$930 billion. Credit card interest rates have soared to a record high. According to the Federal Reserve, the average interest

rate on credit card accounts with balances on which interest is assessed — so not counting the theoretical interest rate on credit card accounts that don't carry balances — was about 17 percent at the end of 2019, a record level going back to 1994.

Also rising, according to the Fed's report, are credit card delinquencies, that is, nonpayment of credit card debt. The rate of credit card balances that are 30 days or more delinquent has spiked to 7.05 percent, the highest delinquency rate seen since back in the 1980s.

Similarly, seriously delinquent auto loans jumped to 4.94 percent. This is higher than the delinquency rate in 2010, when unemployment was the highest since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In 2010, delinquencies on credit cards and auto loans were soaring because over 10 million people had lost their jobs and they couldn't make their payments.

Today, delinquencies aren't because of high levels of unemployment; the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics says the unemployment rate is near historic lows. While unemployment isn't really that low — it's at least triple what the BLS says — it's not at 2010 Great Recession levels.

## Sharp divide

So why are these delinquencies spiking now? We haven't seen millions of people getting laid off. You hear every day in the business media like the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg News and CNBC that the economy is good.

The stock market is booming. CNBC headlined Feb. 19: "S&P 500 and Nasdaq jump to record highs, Dow climbs more than 100 points." The Dow Jones Industrial Average reached an all-time high of 29,569.58 in February 2020.

But there's a sharp divide in the economy. One group is doing well. Their wealth is rising. Profits are up. For the rest, their incomes have not risen, have not even kept up with inflation, with the price increases of cars and homes and other items. Capitalist economists call it slow wage growth.

Wages today for most workers are lower, in real terms, than they were 40 years ago. What's increasing is the rate of capitalist exploitation.

The working class is strung out. Workers have jobs but are living from paycheck to paycheck, not because they're splurging but because wages have not gone up. People are

working, but they aren't even making a living wage.

The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. The Fight for \$15 movement began in 2012. According to FightFor15.org, the movement has won raises for 22 million people across the country. That's good, but what is needed is much more.

Approximately 23 million workers are paid between \$7.25 and \$11 an hour. Nearly half (42.4 percent) of all workers in the U.S. make less than \$15 per hour.

The fact is, even \$15 an hour is not enough to be considered a living wage; it's only enough to rise above what capitalist economists call a poverty wage, which is about \$8 — that is, more than the Federal minimum wage.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has a Living Wage Calculator. According to the MIT calculator, a single adult with one child in the New York-Newark-Jersey City metropolitan area has to make \$32.29 an hour, working full time (40 hours a week), to have a living wage. In the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Calif., metropolitan area, the living wage for a single adult with one child would be \$31.85.

So, \$32 an hour would be a good starting point for the minimum wage.

## Wages under capitalism

Wages under capitalism is a hot topic. Karl Marx wrote a whole book

or three on it.

Capitalist exploitation is hidden by the wage system. Workers are hired for a given amount of time and receive a wage in return. It appears on the surface that an equal exchange has taken place — but this isn't the case.

Why not? The capitalist, in addition to purchasing computers, machinery, raw materials, etc., for production, also buys what Marx called labor-power, the capability to produce goods or services for sale on the market.

Working-class people, who don't own the means to produce and sell commodities, have one commodity they can sell: their labor-power, their ability to work. In this way, workers are forced to sell themselves to some capitalist for a wage in order to acquire money to buy the necessities of life.

Labor is the actual process of work itself.

According to Marx, unlike computers, machinery, raw materials and other inanimate materials for production that pass on their value to the product but create no new value, labor-power is a "special commodity ... a source of value." In other words, workers produce new value contained in the final product, which belongs to the capitalist. This is what the capitalist calls profit.

The capitalist owns not only the means of production, and the work-

ers' labor-power which is bought to use in production, but the product as well. After paying wages as required for the workers to live, the capitalist then becomes the owner of the surplus value, that is, the profit.

The distinction between "labor-power" and "labor" is the key to understanding exploitation under capitalism.

When a capitalist pays a worker a wage, they are not paying for the value of a certain amount of completed labor, but for labor-power. The

soaring inequality in the U.S. today illustrates this. The wealth that workers create has increased, but this has not been reflected in wages, which remain stagnant. Instead, an increasing proportion of the wealth produced by workers swelled the pockets of the super rich, who did not compensate the workers for their increased production on the job.

It appears that the capitalist pays the worker for the value produced by their labor because workers only receive a paycheck after they have worked for a given amount of time. In reality, this amounts to an interest-free loan of labor-power by the worker to the capitalist.

As Marx wrote, "In all cases, therefore, the worker advances the use-value of his labor-power to the capitalist. He lets the buyer consume it before he receives payment of the price. Everywhere, the worker allows credit to the capitalist."

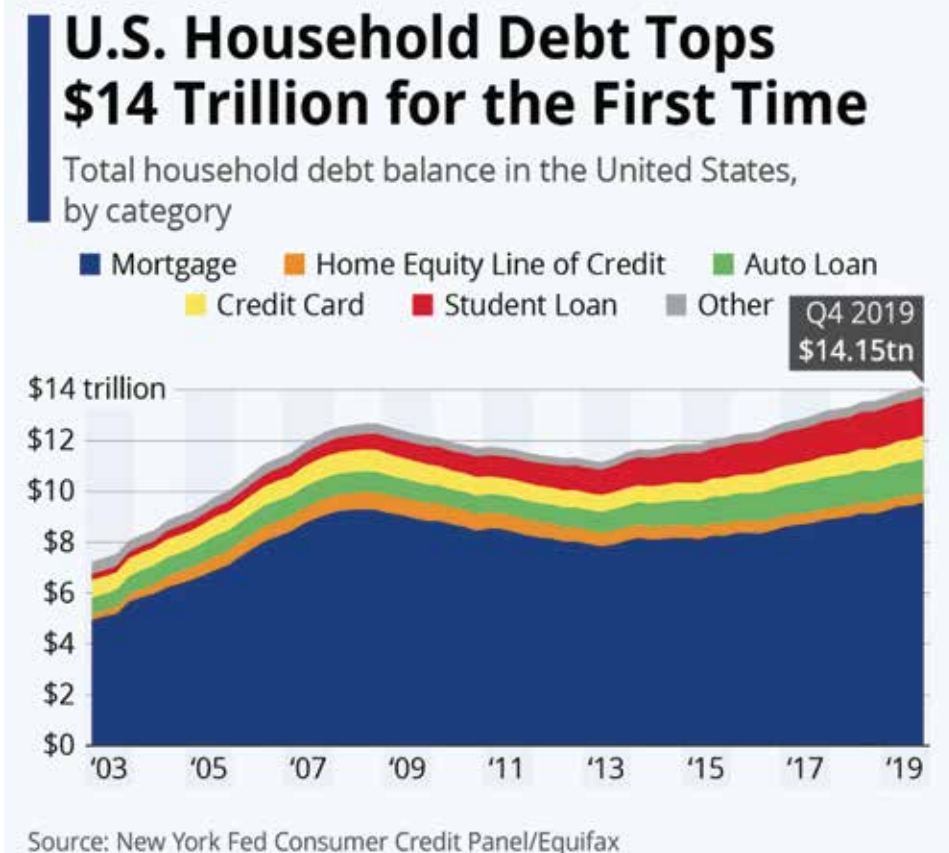
## Why workers are in debt

What is household debt — mortgages, student loans, auto loans, credit cards? This is not the same as the debt of big businesses like General Motors or Walmart, which involves capital investment.

Workers' debt is not a capital investment. Rather, consumer debt or household debt occurs because wages are too low to cover the costs of the means of subsistence — housing, food, transportation, clothing, health care and so on — as well as to smooth the personal booms and busts between paychecks.

What appears to be a lending of money by banks through loans or credit cards to wage earners is actually a borrowing by the capitalists. Only in the case of wage labor is the commodity used up before it is paid for. Every day, we make an interest-free loan of our labor power to our bosses. And, short of cash, we are forced to take out interest-bearing loans to cover the "revolving" costs of eating and dressing and living, as well as the long-term costs of housing, commuting, schooling, etc.

Actually, what is being loaned by the banks, the credit dealers and such is unpaid wages, loaned to the capitalists. A raise in pay to at least a living wage would relieve some of the debt burden. But the fact is that what has been borrowed is really unpaid wages and the debt should be cancelled altogether, as it is the accumulation of years of unpaid wages. That and a living wage for all would fix the record-breaking debt crisis. [REDACTED]





# Conference charts action to end blockade of CUBA

By Cheryl LaBash

The newest endorsements for the International Conference for the Normalization of U.S.-Cuba Relations demonstrate once again that the people of the United States oppose the current president's accelerating economic war against socialist Cuba.

The event will be held at the Fordham School of Law in New York City on March 21-22. At this conference, participants can arm themselves with information and tools to bring the struggle to end the U.S. economic war into every social movement. Register and donate at [US-CubaNormalization.org](http://US-CubaNormalization.org).

As demonstrated by 13 municipalities adopting resolutions against the blockade, organizers only need to ask to get support. In February, the Capital District of New York Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) unanimously voted to endorse the conference. Shortly after that, the Troy, N.Y., Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO, voted to support it. DSA chapters in Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va., also recently added their support.

The conference plenaries and six topic panels will culminate with a unified action plan to end the extraterritorial, unilateral, genocidal blockade that imposes great hardship and violates the sovereignty of the Cuban people.

You can learn how to "Defend Your Right to Travel"; "Build Cross Border Solidarity Between Canada and the U.S."; and "Amplify Voices Against the Blockade" through resolutions and legislation.

Also find out about "The Impact of

the Blockade of Cuba on the People of the U.S. and What We Can Do About It"; "Cuba, the Caribbean and Latin America"; and "Cuba and Medical Solidarity."

Hear from U.S. doctors who graduated from Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine and doctors who've collaborated with Cuban medical teams to address the epidemic of Black infant and maternal mortality in U.S. cities. Meet environmental activists building exchanges with Cuba — internationally recognized as the globe's most sustainable country.

Learn how ministers are fighting to get U.S. visas for Cubans, something blocked by the intentional destaffing of the U.S. Embassy in Havana. Hear Cuban American voices against the blockade and activists from Puerto Rico, Haiti, Venezuela, Quebec and other parts of Canada.

In addition to representatives from the Cuban Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Cuban Embassy in Washington, members of the Federation of Cuban Women participating in United Nations Women's Month activities will also attend to speak for themselves.

On Saturday evening, March 21, at the historic Riverside Church in Harlem, a "Stand with Cuba" cultural event will feature the renowned Cuban Dance Band led by Pepito Gómez, movement hip-hop artists Rebel Díaz and Immortal Technique, plus the Legacy Women Drummers and Bomba Yo.

So register now and join us in New York on the weekend of March 21-22!

## Let's GO to CUBA!



**MAY DAY 2020  
APRIL 26 - MAY 10**

Down load the application:  
**NNOC.info**

Land package  
\$725 per person,  
includes visa,  
air extra



**Cuban Workers Union • May 1 March •  
International Solidarity Conference May 2  
Celebrate the 60th anniversary of ICAP  
61st year of the Cuban Revolution  
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## National Network on Cuba responds to '60 Minutes' interview

By National Network on Cuba

The National Network on Cuba (NNOC) deplores and denounces all Cuba-bashing and "red-baiting" attacks on any individuals. We take particular offense to the tone and substance of the Feb. 23, 2020, "60 Minutes" interview conducted by Anderson Cooper, in which he used the example of Cuba to criticize and demean presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

In their conversation, Sanders praised the literacy campaign, one of Cuba's first initiatives following the triumph of the revolution. The literacy campaign has been universally praised and replicated around the world for the past 60 years, including in the United States, whose own academic achievements and access to education compare unfavorably to Cuba's.

For example, the state of California has just settled a lawsuit for \$53 million due to its denial of basic education to its students. Fifty-three percent of third graders didn't meet

state standards. A similar complaint has been filed in Michigan, alleging that children in Detroit are receiving an education so inferior and underfunded that it's as if they're not attending school at all. We call on "60 Minutes" to report on these cases representing U.S. educational achievements, or rather lack of achievement, in the richest country in the world.

It is the height of ignorance and arrogance to denigrate literacy or to equate the Cubans' prioritization of this as anything but exemplary. A totalitarian regime does not offer its citizens the ability to read and write, much less promote literacy. As everyone knows, it is the ability to read and understand that results in critical thinking and a well-informed populace. Cubans are an ed-

ucated, cultured and curious society, not oppressed and ill-informed.

We further suggest that Cooper and the "60 Minutes" producers examine the political prisoner population of the United States and again suggest that they investigate and report on the U.S. children and adults who have been denied the educational opportunities guaranteed and enjoyed by all Cubans.

**In Cuba  
education  
is a  
national  
priority  
In the US  
education  
is under  
attack**



**En Cuba la  
educación  
es una  
prioridad  
nacional  
En los  
EE. UU. la  
educación  
está bajo  
ataque**



HARLEM EVENT

‘Lift illegal sanctions off Zimbabwe!’

By Stephen Millies

Fifty-five years after Malcolm X was assassinated, people came to the National Black Theatre in Harlem on Feb. 21 to demand the lifting of illegal sanctions off Zimbabwe. The December 12th Movement organized this important event.

The renowned musician and jazz scholar Jerome Jennings opened the program with fantastic drumming. Omowale Clay of D12 welcomed the standing-room-only crowd.

Viola Plummer, chairperson of D12, quoted Malcolm X: “We have to be free by any means necessary.” Plummer introduced the featured speaker, Ambassador Arikana Chihombori-Quao, M.D., as “a sister who speaks the truth.”

The diplomat and physician is the former representative of the African Union to the United States. Born in Zimbabwe, Dr. Chihombori-Quao is a scientist with a master’s degree in organic chemistry.

A graduate of Meharry Medical College, she spent 29 years as a family physician in Murfreesboro, Tenn.



PHOTO: DECEMBER 12TH MOVEMENT  
Ambassador Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao

Dr. Chihombori-Quao is currently leading the African Diaspora Development Institute.

Dr. Chihombori-Quao reminded people of the consequences of the evil Berlin conference of 1884 that

carved up Africa among the European colonial powers. The Belgian King Leopold had millions of Africans in Congo killed and mutilated for rubber profits.

The ambassador spoke of how her father and his family were driven off their land by white settlers in Zimbabwe. Under British colonial legislation, whites could seize 2,000 hectares — almost eight square miles of land — and burn the homes of Africans.

Yet, virtually every capitalist media outlet denounced the late Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe for leading Africans to reclaim their land!

Dr. Chihombori-Quao also described how the French imperialists, while being forced to grant formal independence to African countries, demanded that their financial reserves be controlled by French banks. But the media only talk about the alleged corruption of certain African leaders.

She emphasized the importance of

the African Union initiating an all-African customs union on July 1, 2020.

The doctor and diplomat also spoke movingly about how much was stolen from Africa. The African Holocaust includes thousands of African skulls that are displayed in European museums. Dr. Chihombori-Quao told how women belonging to the Ashanti nation in Ghana prevented the British colonialists from stealing the Golden Stool, an important symbol of nationhood.

Dr. James McIntosh, member of N’cobra, (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America), gave a dynamic fundraising appeal. Dr. McIntosh is the author of “The Unauthorized Psychoanalysis of Donald Trump.”

Viola Plummer denounced the nearby Bloomberg for President office as an insult to Harlem. She reminded people that the U.S. sanctions against Zimbabwe are coming up for renewal by Trump in March.

Ending the meeting, Plummer led the crowds in chants of “Sanctions are a weapon of mass destruction!”

Hands off Zimbabwe! 🇿🇼

El movimiento por Bernie Sanders: ¿De qué lado estás?  
Por qué socialistas revolucionarios convocan a un apoyo crítico

Continua de pagina 12

han sido manipuladas, robadas, subvertidas o compradas en interés de la clase dominante. Se podría hacer un buen contraste entre el sistema electoral cubano y el estadounidense en una discusión sobre cuál es más democrático.

Adicionalmente, el sistema electoral como está constituido en los EUA no cubre a la policía ni al ejército que no son elegidos, pero sus actos pueden ser una cuestión de

vida o muerte. Tampoco son elegidos nuestros patronos, que ejercen el poder diario en nuestras vidas.

Sin embargo, fue el arquitecto de la revolución Bolchevique, V.I. Lenin, quien abogó por que los revolucionarios participaran en la política parlamentaria, no como un fin sino como un medio.

Las elecciones son un barómetro de la lucha, pero aún más importante en este caso, son donde se está llevando a cabo la lucha de un gran sector de la clase trabajadora.

¿Por qué es así? Muchos de nosotros tenemos un historial dentro del movimiento sindical y obrero.

Cualquier trabajador con experiencia o representante sindical dirá que la mayoría de los trabajadores no quiere irse en huelga. ¿Por qué lo harían? Significa no cobrar su paga, arriesgarse a perder su trabajo y enfrentar grandes dificultades que podrían afectar no solo a él, sino a sus hijos pequeños.

Una huelga, una sentada, una toma del lugar de trabajo solo se materializa en torno a la lucha real, después de que se agotan las rutas más fáciles. Quizás no en etapas, pero generalmente no como una primera opción.

Y requiere una preparación y un trabajo minucioso por parte de los organizadores que constantemente hacen el trabajo de extraer lecciones y de crear conciencia, como solíamos llamarlo popularmente.

Entonces no nos debe sorprender que muchos de los trabajadores y aquellos en la comunidad, tanto jóvenes y viejos, quieran ir con lo que ya están más acostumbrados y lo que parece más fácil, y eso es votar por el cambio en las elecciones.

Es solo la necesidad lo que impulsa la lucha de clases hacia adelante.

Apoyo Crítico

Finalmente, nadie está proponiendo que los revolucionarios nos unamos al Partido Demócrata, abandonemos nuestro llamado al socialismo revolucionario o suavicemos nuestras críticas a Bernie Sanders. Todo lo contrario. Él no es un antiimperialista; ni siquiera se puede afirmar que es completamente anticapitalista. En estos temas y quizás en otros, encontraremos formas de hacer críticas claras y efectivas.

Quizás la crítica más importante de su campaña en el frente interno ha sido su incapacidad de aceptar el llamado a reparaciones para los descendientes de los esclavizados. Podemos explicar por qué apoyar las reparaciones y oponerse a la supremacía blanca fortalecerá el movimiento de la clase trabajadora y por qué es un puente necesario para construir la solidaridad.

Pero ninguna de estas críticas será efectiva o significativa al margen de la lucha en carne y hueso.

Necesitamos estar con la clase trabajadora, la cual aprenderá intentando y errando a través de la experiencia, que solo podemos ganar nuestra liberación si estamos en las calles, realizando sentadas, mediante huelgas y, en última instancia, organizando el poder de clase a escala global. Como dijo Frederick Douglass, “Si no hay lucha, no hay progreso”.

Debemos recordar que la Revolución Rusa de 1917 se basó en el llamado a la “paz, el pan y la tierra”.

Las palabras del vicepresidente Mike Pence en un mitin de campaña en Atlanta, el 11 de agosto de 2019 no deberían olvidarse. Él dijo: “El momento en que Estados Unidos se convierta en un país socialista es el momento en que Estados Unidos deja de ser Estados Unidos”.

Para la clase capitalista, realmente no importa qué tipo de socialismo se esté considerando (al menos en este momento), ya sea una versión revolucionaria o simplemente una reforma que cree que reducirá su margen de ganancias. Por supuesto, todo eso cambiaría si se enfrentaran a estas dos opciones, reforma o revolución. Es nuestro trabajo ver que la última opción esté finalmente sobre la mesa. 🇺🇸

INVITAN

Mujeres en Lucha/Women in Struggle

(Miembro FDI) ♦ D19: Partido LIBRE, USA-Canadá

♦ Defend Democracy in Brazil ♦ Foro de São Paulo, NY

♦ Revolución ciudadana Compromiso Social, EE. UU-Canada

Durante los últimos meses se han acrecentado los desafíos a las luchas populares alrededor del mundo. La derecha neoliberal, azuzada por el residente de la Casa Blanca estadounidense ha desatado ataques contra los movimientos de los pueblos y se ha intensificado la agresión contra países progresistas como Cuba y Venezuela.

¿Qué papel han jugado las mujeres en la defensa de los pueblos?

¿Cómo ha cambiado su situación ante estos desafíos?

In recent months the challenges to popular struggles around the world have increased. The neo-liberal right, fueled by the U.S. White House resident, has unleashed attacks against the movements of the people and aggression against progressive countries such as Cuba and Venezuela has intensified.

• What role have women played in the defense of peoples?

• How has their situation changed in the face of these challenges?

Un panel de mujeres expondrá sobre estos temas.

A panel of women will present on these topics.

Tendremos la oportunidad de escuchar directamente desde Cuba, a representantes de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres y la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas.

We will have the opportunity to listen directly from Cuba representatives of the Women’s Int’l Democratic Federation and the Federation of Cuban Women.

Jueves, 19 de marzo / Thursday March 19

6:30-9:30 pm ▶The People’s Forum 320 W 37th St, NYC 10018

Clockwise from Harriet Tubman; Clara Zetkin with Rosa Luxemburg; Gabriela Silang; Celia Sánchez; Vilma Espín; Arapaho Chief Pretty Nose; Marsha P. Johnson; Jiang Qing; Haydée Santamaría; Berta Isabel Cáceres; Lolita Lebrón; Leila Khaled; in the center, Marielle Francisco da Silva

WOMEN IN STRUGGLE  
MUJERES EN LUCHA

Struggle for Socialism ★ La Lucha por Socialismo  
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# How do we get socialism?

By John Parker

Why is capitalism so f@\*d up?

Well, the short and loosely accurate answer is that it's like one of those driverless cars that still doesn't quite work the way they are supposed to — because no one's at the wheel!

No one is monitoring what needs to be produced or by how much. It's all based on each individual capitalist's drive for the maximum profit — whether it means producing milk for babies or bombs that kill babies. And since producing bombs has a higher profit return, then bombs it is. Humanity be damned, the climate be damned!

Capitalism has always been a cruel system, but it came into being partly as a result of farm laborers rejecting an even crueler system, feudalism, which lost its ability to expand production. This revolt against the old system was led by the soon-to-be new ruling class of capitalists, leading the exploited farm laborers (or serfs/peasants) as an army against the monarchs.

Once the capitalists were in control of how things were being produced in society, with their more scientific and more efficient means, bringing those farmers into their factories as workers, it allowed the advance in productive capacity, helping to limit our want for basic necessities.

But remember, the capitalists aren't in business to employ workers or provide the necessities of life. They're in business to maximize profits — which means reducing labor costs by lowering wages and using every new technological advance to make their machines and processes capable of producing more while cutting the amount of workers needed, eventually leading to more poverty and unemployment.

## Capitalism blocks progress

But the bigger problem for the capitalist system is the fact that the pace of production always accelerates above the pace of consumption, leading to what we have today — a global crisis of overproduction — too many products that can't be sold at a profit.

And when greater profits can be made through financial speculation (gambling on the stock exchange), the investment money flows there.

That's mostly why there aren't enough full-time jobs that pay a living wage. Of course, we could always just lower the working hours, allowing more people to be employed — but that's not allowed because (1) it cuts into profits and (2) even if we think human needs should trump profits, we don't control how things are produced.

We're not the ruling class, and we don't control the police and military — which will undoubtedly be called in when the profits of the bosses are threatened.

That's why unemployment and low wages can't be solved by politicians working within the confines of the capitalist mode of production. Just as feudalism became a strain hampering production, so too has capitalism run its course and become an inhibitor of vital production for humanity.

The world is now ripe, overripe in fact, for a new mode of production — one that puts us, the workers, the producers of wealth, the majority, behind the wheel — and that defines socialism.

## The science of Marxism

It's important to remember, at this point, that the systemic change that occurred from feudalism to capitalism could only have happened after the means of production were taken from the old ruling class of monarchs and landlords and then controlled by the new ruling class — the capitalists.

Likewise, a socialist revolutionary change can only happen by taking the means of production from the ruling class of capitalists.

How do we know this? The same way we know that gravity exists. Scientific analysis of objective reality can also be applied to social change as it relates to how a society produces, or its modes of production. The capitalists maintain their power precisely by controlling (owning) the means of production, and control the wealth in society resulting from the value created by our human labor.

This science is called Marxism.

Karl Marx used the scientific method to analyse how human society is organized to produce the necessities of survival, from ancient societies with no classes to the class societies of slavery, feudalism and capitalism. And this analysis pointed clearly to the next step: socialism.

This scientific socialism developed by Marx, explaining the economic workings of capitalist society and the methods to overcome it, has been the single most relied-upon source for implementing revolutionary social change since the early 20th century on every continent.

It's been utilized by revolutionaries like Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Clara Zetkin, Amílcar Cabral, Paul Robeson, George Jackson, Rosa Luxemburg, Mao Zedong, W.E.B. Du Bois, Celia Sánchez, Samora Machel, Ho Chi Minh and, of course, V.I. Lenin — whose utilization of Marxism expanded its reach. His leadership was instrumental in bringing about the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in Russia.

## Socialism and elections

Okay, time to clean up that driverless car analogy. The problem really isn't that there is no one behind the wheel. The problem is that the driver is more concerned about making profits than bothering to notice or even being able to care that the car is going off a cliff.

Yes, we don't control the police or military or even the legislative process. In fact, it's important to understand that the executive and legislative branches of government have been rigged to ensure the status quo since the late 1800s.

That's when the money of the Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Mellons and Morgans, to name a few, locked up the system with the enormous profits they gained from cotton production — in other words, slavery — and used that power to expand into other markets.



'Unity, Commitment and Victory': Workers in power march on May Day 2019 in Havana, Cuba.

In addition to using money to keep out candidates that appeal to workers, nowadays the corporate media insure that any "controversial" candidates don't make it far into the political process. They slander or more often ignore candidates that represent movements that could inspire a shift to the left.

That's happening now with the media playing catch-up in their unified attack against Bernie Sanders, since, regardless of his advocacy of remaining within the framework of capitalism, his base of supporters and his progressive platform could threaten the ruling class's ideological domination that holds back a raising of working-class consciousness.

This is certainly a new development in our current period, and it affords a tremendous opportunity for revolutionaries: not to be spectators from the sidelines, but active participants in an electoral political campaign that has the potential to go significantly beyond the intentions of the liberal candidate and allow access to the many members of our class who are excited about this campaign.

Lenin promoted this perspective in his pamphlet, "'Left Wing' Communism: an Infantile Disorder," sharing the lessons from the experiences of the Russian Revolution just three years earlier.

## Revolution, not reform

But to answer the question you're probably asking about how our class can take over the means of production, we should first understand that promoting the idea of the necessity of that takeover is of prime importance.

Especially when the organs of capitalism — its media, its politicians and the entire ruling class — have an existential fear of, as Marx put it, "the specter of communism."

They will promote and help others to unknowingly promote any alternative theories that have been proven ineffective and incorrect time and again — theories that call for everything but the acquisition of the means of production and replacement of the boss's state and its bought legislature, military and police.

Marx, in fact, exposed the fallacy of the many forms of socialism being peddled by not only liberal forces, but also encouraged by some government institutions, to avoid the revolutionary implications of scientific socialism in his pamphlet "Critique of the Gotha Program." Lenin did the same in "What is To Be Done?"

Three years ago was the 100th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Rev-

olution. From then up to and including today, socialism as an ideology and the countries that were and are working toward it have been mercilessly attacked by all imperialist powers, starting with the invasion of Soviet Russia by 16 countries when it was just one year old — led by French, British, U.S., Canadian and Japanese imperialists attempting to snuff out communism.

As powerful as the imperialists were, they were defeated. But devastating economic warfare, embargoes and the continued threat of nuclear annihilation by the U.S. followed. In addition, serious missteps occurred in the leadership of the Soviet Union after Lenin that would not allow the country to endure the external sabotage by imperialist countries.

As a result, the Soviet Union and its socialist economic system eventually collapsed and broke up into capitalist countries like Russia, Ukraine and others, now acquiring all the problems of homelessness and poverty at breakneck speed.

## What socialism can accomplish

Yet, in spite of these ongoing attacks, it was the Soviet Union that was the determining force in the defeat of Nazi Germany, and it was the socialist countries that facilitated the liberation of 17 African countries from colonialism in the 1960s.

None of these achievements could have been made without socialist planning. This allowed an underdeveloped country to become the second-greatest industrial power in the world at unheard-of speed.

If it were not for the type of economic planning that allowed the expansion of heavy industry for military purposes as rapidly as it did, the Nazi government in Germany would most likely have been the victors of World War II, a war that took 20 million Soviet lives. Remember that when they tell you that the Soviet Union, and therefore socialism, was a failure.

Also remember the contributions of Cuba's health care and education system exported all over the world, and that the countries putting up the greatest fight against global warming in resources and money are able to make these contributions to the world precisely because of their economic system of scientific socialism and the workers' ownership of the vital means of production in society.

Imagine what we can accomplish for the people of this country, and the whole world, when we take the advanced productive powers of the U.S. economy into our own hands and apply socialist methods to them. ■



# El movimiento por Bernie Sanders: ¿De qué lado estás?

## Por qué socialistas revolucionarios convocan a un apoyo crítico

Por Sharon Black

No tenemos ninguna expectativa hacia el partido Demócrata. Es un partido guerrillero de multimillonarios y banqueros. Cualquier noción de que el Partido Demócrata represente a la clase trabajadora es una farsa. En su esencia, sigue siendo una institución neoliberal empeñada en preservar el dominio capitalista. Guerras imperialistas destructivas han sido libradas bajo las administraciones del Partido Demócrata; los derechos de los trabajadores y beneficios para los pobres han sido despojados por cada administración, independientemente del partido. Lo que sí es constante, independientemente de qué partido gane, es el sistema de capitalismo e imperialismo que es el origen de tanta miseria humana.

### Entonces, ¿por qué convocamos a un apoyo crítico al movimiento Sanders?

Bernie Sanders como candidato no es la cuestión crucial. Lo que sí es crítico es la lucha que su campaña ha despertado contra el sistema del Partido Demócrata. Una lucha que ha causado miedo en la clase dominante. Esta campaña es un movimiento de la clase trabajadora, principalmente de jóvenes y cada vez más de los oprimidos, que desconfían profundamente del sistema de ambos partidos. Es un movimiento alimentado por la creciente ira contra el gobierno de los multimillonarios y la creciente brecha entre ricos y pobres

que ha dejado a tantos trabajadores empobrecidos.

El hecho de que la clase dominante esté tan preocupada y tan frenética por parar este movimiento, indica claramente su propio temor de que el movimiento, galvanizado en torno al cuidado médico, la educación gratuita, la contención de la crisis climática, etc., bien podría perder el control. Lo que significa que podría abandonar la apretada camisa de fuerza del Partido Demócrata.

Los ataques cada vez más virulentos contra Bernie Sanders han ido ganando fuerza desde que se hizo evidente que la campaña de Sanders podría ganar las primarias. Por supuesto, habrá millones de trucos desde ahora hasta la Convención Demócrata en julio, y hay una gran probabilidad que haya robo de las elecciones.

La debacle del Caucus de Iowa fue un recordatorio repugnante de que las fuerzas detrás de la cortina mueven los hilos. Que hicieran tanto para destruir el Caucus de Iowa en un intento por frenar la campaña de Sanders, demuestra su verdadero desprecio por su susodicha democracia.

### Multimillonarios rechazan hasta equieñas reformas — su respuesta es la guerra imperialista

La clase de multimillonarios y banqueros no está inclinada en este punto para dar mucho en forma de concesiones, ya sea para proporcionar servicios de salud, educación, frenar a los propietarios depre-

dadores o aumentar el salario mínimo — ni mucho menos detener el terror policial y el sistema supremacista blanco que lo impulsa, cerrar los centros de detención de inmigrantes, respetar los derechos de indígenas, dar justicia a la mujer, a los géneros oprimidos y la comunidad LGBTQ2S o salvar el planeta.

El capitalismo como sistema está en crisis y por esto se le hace más y más difícil satisfacer las necesidades de las masas. No solo se ha ampliado la brecha entre ricos y pobres, sino que la próxima generación enfrenta la amenaza de un colapso planetario.

Lo que mueve a los capitalistas es la guerra imperialista en todas sus formas, ya sea por intervención directa o por sanciones. Los demócratas y los republicanos están unidos en los ataques imperialistas contra Venezuela, Cuba, Irán, Palestina, Corea, Zimbabwe, China y otros países.

### La importancia del movimiento

¿Llevaría Sanders esto a la conclusión lógica, o sea, abiertamente romper con el Partido Demócrata? Si bien es poco probable según sus propias palabras, sigue siendo una pregunta importante. Sin embargo, lo que hacen sus seguidores es aún más crítico.

Es el movimiento lo que nos interesa, y el potencial de una lucha más grande para empujar a la clase trabajadora hacia una dirección independiente en su propio nombre.

Muchos de nosotros en Struggle-La Lucha estuvimos muy acti-

vos en la organización y promoción de la “Marcha del Millón de Trabajadores” (17 de octubre de 2004), que fue fundada y dirigida por sindicalistas negros que convocaron a la marcha nacional en gran parte con el objetivo de desarrollar un movimiento independiente de trabajadores que se liberara de las cadenas del Partido Demócrata.

¿No deberíamos los socialistas y comunistas revolucionarios estar en el movimiento Sanders, especialmente si toma un giro crítico, para que podamos agitar, educar y explicar cuál podría ser el próximo paso?

### Referéndum entre capitalismo y socialismo

Tanto antes de la convención demócrata — pero también, si por alguna razón imprevista Sanders gana la nominación — lo que de hecho tendrá lugar es un referéndum entre capitalismo y socialismo.

No importa tanto si Bernie Sanders es o no un verdadero socialista o un “demócrata del ‘New Deal’”: el socialismo es cómo el establecimiento burgués de ambos partidos define el tema. Trump ya está definiendo esto, al igual que muchos en el sistema del Partido Demócrata.

### Llamado a revolucionarios disgustados con las elecciones burguesas

El sistema electoral de los EUA es totalmente antidemocrático. Solo fijémonos en quien puede y no puede votar y cuantas veces las elecciones

*Continúa a página 10*

# Cuba: En su aniversario 60, la Federación Mujeres busca mayor empoderamiento de la mujer

Por Claudia González Corrales

El aseguramiento de un grupo de medidas en favor de la mujer y su empoderamiento en la sociedad actual es la principal divisa de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC) de cara al Día Internacional de la Mujer, el próximo 8 de Marzo, y al aniversario 60 de la fundación de la organización.

De acuerdo con declaraciones a la Agencia Cubana de Noticias de Teresa Amarelle Boué, integrante del Buró Político del Partido Comunista de Cuba y secretaria general de la organización, desde ya convocan a trabajos productivos en todo el país por el Día de la Mujer, y hay muchas novedades para poder estar a tono con las transformaciones que el país necesita.

Llegaremos al 8 de marzo con un amplio trabajo comunitario, conscientes de que nuestra principal misión es garantizar la continuidad de la Revolución cubana, y con gran entusiasmo de las mujeres sobre todo por participar en proyectos productivos, enfatizó.

Estamos incursionando en lavatines comunitarios, en la proyección de alternativas para el cuidado de la familia, y se impulsa en los centros laborales con alta concentración de



Teresa Amarelle Boué, secretaria general de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas.

mujeres las casitas infantiles, aseguró.

En este sentido, refirió que las federadas trabajan en tareas productivas de conjunto con organizaciones y organismos como el Ministerio de la Agricultura, el Grupo Azucarero AZCUBA, y la Asociación Nacional de Agricultores Pequeños, además de otras con los Comités de Defensa de la Revolución, La Central de Trabajadores de Cuba y la Asociación de Combatientes de la Revolución Cubana.

La secretaria general mencionó que de manera especial las actividades de la FMC se dedican a la juventud, como vía para consolidar la unidad y seguir adelante en todos los

proyectos de la nación, con énfasis en las arribantes a la organización y en las incorporadas al Servicio Militar Voluntario Femenino.

Otros puntos importantes en las actividades de la Federación son el estímulo de la recreación, el apoyo a los programas de salud y educativos, y el trabajo con la familia para romper estereotipos que persisten e impiden una igualdad de género plena.

Según datos ofrecidos por Amarelle Boué, en Cuba hay cuatro millones 300 mil federadas; de ellas, el 44 por ciento son jóvenes; y cada año ingresan a la organización aproximadamente 50 mil muchachas de manera voluntaria.

La FMC es una organización de masas fundada el 23 de agosto de 1960 por la destacada revolucionaria Vilma Espín, quien la presidió hasta su muerte, el 18 de junio de 2007, y defendió con todas sus fuerzas la emancipación de la mujer.

*Fuente: Resumen Latinoamericano*

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